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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1933**

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as School Medical Officer for the year 1933.

The work of the School Medical Service was handicapped by the peremptory resignation of Dr. Stack. Since it was impossible to appoint her successor for three months, the whole of the work devolved on Dr. Levy with occasional assistance from Dr. Dorothy Blair. Consequently, there is a decrease in the amount of work in certain directions particularly in the examination of children's eyes. Dr. Margaret Hamilton commenced her duties in December, and it is hoped that much of the arrears will be overcome before the end of the present year. At the end of December practically all the suspected cases of mental deficiency which had so far been ascertained had been examined and classified, and all the children who required dental treatment, and whose parents had signified their acceptance, had been treated. Too many parents do not accept the treatment necessary to save the teeth, but wait until pain compels a visit to the dentist when it is often too late to save the teeth, and the only adequate treatment is extraction.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of children found, at routine examinations, to require dental treatment.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of children found to be suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (bones, joints, glands, etc.), but a slight increase in the number of those suffering from the pulmonary type of the disease. This is to a large extent accounted for by the fact that all those who had been in contact with a tuberculous patient at home are specially examined by the Tuberculosis Officer; in this way not only are the cases discovered earlier but appropriate treatment can be instituted at an earlier stage of the disease with correspondingly enhanced hopes of recovery.

The number of children found at routine inspections to be suffering from malnutrition has again been surprisingly low. There can be no doubt that the increase in the number of free meals given has prevented much undernourishment among school children.

In spite of the recent improvements carried out at the clinic and some increase in the size of the waiting room, the treatment clinics continue to be overcrowded. On account of the numbers of children and their parents attending, the inadequate accommodation is not conducive to good work or the welfare of the children. Probably before another report is written, the proposed new school clinics will be in occupation when it is hoped that improved facilities, together with some re-organisation, will enable the school medical staff to cope more efficiently with the demands of an ever increasing service.

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Town Hall,
South Shields,
March, 1934.

School Medical Service.

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

STAFF.

Principal School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health—	W. Campbell Lyons, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant School Medical Officers—	H. Levy, M.B., B.S. Margaret C. P. Hamilton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
School Dental Surgeons	—F. Innes, L.D.S. —J. Loudon Reid, L.D.S.—(part time).
Ophthalmic Surgeon	—T. Gowans, M.B., Ch.B.—(part time).
Operating Surgeon—(nose and throat)	—Robert Crosby, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (part time).

Dr. Hamilton commenced duties on 6th November, 1933, following the resignation of Dr. Stack on 1st August, 1933.

There are 11 Health Visitors whose combined duties include school medical service, tuberculosis and maternity and child welfare work, etc. ; the time devoted to the school medical service is equivalent to that of four school nurses.

CO-ORDINATION.

(a) There is complete co-ordination between the School Medical and Infant and Child Welfare Services. Both are under the same administration, and clinics for both services are held in the same building. All records are readily available and the clerical work is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

As the school, tuberculosis and venereal disease clinics are held in adjacent buildings, there is close co-operation between the School Medical Officers and the Tuberculosis Officer and V.D. Medical Officer, and the advice of these officers is always sought and is readily available in suitable cases.

(b) There are no nursery schools in the Borough.

(c) Children under one year and to a lesser extent those between 1 and 5 years are supervised by the maternity and child welfare medical officer and health visitors.

The following are the reports made to me by the Assistant School Medical Officers, the School Dentists and the Consulting Ophthalmologist. They include reports on the work of the Myope and Open-Air Schools.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Number of children on the registers at the end of 1933	20,496
Average attendance for the year (93.0 per cent.)	19,321
Number of elementary schools (excluding Myope and Open Air Schools)	23
Number of elementary departments	54
Number of children on registers of special schools at end of 1933	225
Average attendance at special schools (87.4 per cent.)	198

The average attendance has been most satisfactory although 0.5 per cent. below that of 1932, which was the highest average for eight years.

School Hygiene.

Complete supervision of the sanitation in the schools was continued throughout the year. The conditions of the class rooms, cloakrooms and conveniences and the arrangements for lighting and ventilation and heating received attention. It was noted during the inspection of St. Bede's Girls' School that many of the pupils suffered from anaemia, and this may perhaps be in part due to the poor ventilation of the school. Comparative figures are given for other schools of a similar type.

St. Bede's Girls'	28.5	per cent.	suffer from anaemia.
St. Mark's M. & I. . . .	3.4	„	„
Holy Trinity Girls' . . .	7.0	„	„

Medical Inspection.

(1) ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of children examined in 1933 :

Entrants (ages 5—6)	1,802
Intermediates (ages 8—9)	1,579
Leavers (ages 12—13).....	2,352
Total	<u>5,733</u>

(2) OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	6,071
„ „ Re-Inspections	10,025
Total	<u>16,096</u>

Although the number of special inspections is slightly lower this year than last the waiting-room accommodation is still severely taxed.

Findings of Medical Inspection.

MAL-NUTRITION.

Malnutrition among school children was found in remarkably few instances in spite of the adverse industrial conditions. Five per cent. of children were considered to be suffering from malnutrition. This is an increase of 0.7 per cent. on the 1932 return, and is probably accounted for by the prolongation of the economic situation which also explains the bigger demand for free meals and the increase in the number of children found to be suffering from anaemia.

UNCLEANLINESS.

Cleanliness surveys were carried out by the school nurses, the total number of children examined being 29,294. It was found that one child in every 16 examined was dirty or had nits or vermin on person or clothing. This figure shows marked improvement, the proportion in 1932 being 1 in 13.

An analysis of the surveys revealed that uncleanness in the boys' departments ranged from 0 to 4.1 per cent. Actually two schools were without a single unclean child and two others had less than 1.0 per cent.

In the girls' departments the percentage of uncleanness ranged from 1.2 to 11.4 and in the mixed schools the percentages ranged from 2.0 to 28.0.

The following tables give the figures for both surveys :—

FIRST SURVEY.

	Examined.	Verminous or dirty.	Percentage unclean.
Boys	4,515	69	1.5
Girls	4,782	274	5.7
Junior and Infants	9,014	623	6.9
Total	18,311	966	5.3

SECOND SURVEY.

Boys	1,935	50	2.6
Girls	3,093	344	11.1
Junior and Infants	5,955	493	8.3
Total	10,983	887	8.1

MINOR AILMENTS.

Conditions such as sores, cuts, bruises, chilblains, skin diseases, external eye diseases, discharging ears, etc., are classed under this heading.

SKIN DISEASES.

The main conditions encountered were impetigo, scabies and ringworm.

VISUAL DEFECTS.

779 cases of defective vision and 57 cases of squint were referred for further examination following routine or special inspections.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

There was a further slight decrease in the incidence of conjunctivitis. 164 such cases were seen and treated. There were 21 fewer cases of the condition than in 1932. There were also cases of corneal ulcer, hordeolum and blepharitis.

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS.

There was again a decrease in the number of children suffering from abnormalities of the throat and nose during this year, but the percentage of children so affected was approximately the same as in 1932, viz., 27.0 per cent.

Enlarged tonsils	1,178
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	333
Adenoids only	46

Operative treatment is recommended only in cases which exhibit deafness, nasal catarrh and mouth breathing, recurrent tonsillitis, chronic otorrhoea which does not respond to treatment, obviously diseased tonsils with systemic disturbances, hypertrophy sufficient to cause pharyngeal obstruction and neurosis of obscure origin.

EAR DISEASE AND DEFECTIVE HEARING.

327 children were found to have defective hearing as compared with 175 in 1932. 252 children suffered from otitis media and 74 from various other ear diseases.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

The number of children found to have dental defects during routine inspection was greater than in 1932. In 1933 there were 3,350 out of 5,753 children examined or 58 per cent. The percentage in 1932 was 56. The school dentist states his findings later in this report.

CRIPPLING DEFECTS (excluding active tuberculosis).

There are 78 crippled children of school age in this borough. Of these ten are at no school or institution, 3 are in residential schools for crippled children and the remainder are able to attend elementary schools.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1933, 44 children were referred by the school medical officers for examination by the tuberculosis officer, as compared with 39 in the previous year. Of these children 14 were proved to be suffering from tuberculosis.

The following shows the incidence of tuberculosis among children of school age as revealed in notifications received by the medical officer of health.

Age-Group.	1933.		1932.	
	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5—10 years	9	9	11	4
10—15 years	12	14	12	8
Total	44		35	

	Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5—10 years	12	7	15	30
10—15 years	6	9	16	17
Total	34		78	

It will be noticed that there is again an increase in pulmonary tuberculosis, while the number suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis shows a marked decrease in incidence in comparison with 1932.

PREVIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From the information of parents it was estimated that of the children examined at routine medical inspections during 1933 :

26.0 per cent. had previously had measles.

14.4	„	„	whooping cough.
12.3	„	„	chickenpox.
2.0	„	„	scarlet fever.
0.5	„	„	diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

The percentage of children found to be unvaccinated was 48 in 1933. For previous years the percentages were :—

In 1923.....	44 per cent.	In 1928.....	53 per cent.
„ 1924.....	45 „	„ 1929.....	45 „
„ 1925.....	49 „	„ 1930.....	33 „
„ 1926.....	46 „	„ 1931.....	49 „
„ 1927.....	47 „	„ 1932.....	48 „

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever was low in incidence with a tendency to increase towards the end of the year. Diphtheria was sporadic only : 22 cases were notified in 1933 at all ages.

Chickenpox, mumps and measles were present throughout the year, but whooping cough cases were comparatively few, only 5 being reported during the last four months of the year.

Influenza and "colds" were again responsible for much of the decreased attendance, the largest number of absentees reported in one week being 451, in the fourth week in January.

It was not necessary to resort to class or school closure at any time during 1933 on account of infectious disease and no certificates were issued by the school medical officer under the Board's attendance instructions.

As to the methods in vogue for preventing the spread of infectious disease in the schools, the head teachers send intimation of scholars absent on account of non-notifiable infectious diseases, and all such cases are visited by health visitors or sanitary inspectors. A weekly return is also received from every school department stating the number of infectious cases which have occurred in each class during the week. These reports and returns are of considerable assistance in controlling the spread of these diseases.

Each school department is supplied with a list of the common infectious diseases, their symptoms, incubation periods and rules for exclusion of contacts.

Scholars suffering from or who have been in contact at home with notifiable infectious diseases are reported in writing by the Health Department to the respective schools and Sunday schools, and the parents are also notified in writing regarding the length of time such children should remain away from school.

There is also close co-operation with the school attendance officers.

Medical Treatment.

5,079 children attended the general clinic during the year ; 4,331 of these children were treated, and the total attendances were 21,382. The numbers are slightly less than those of 1932, and in spite of some increase in the waiting room, accommodation at the clinic is still inadequate. Increased waiting room and consulting room accommodation is essential and would greatly facilitate the work.

MINOR AILMENTS.

These include cuts, bruises, sores, chilblains, abscesses, etc. In these cases treatment generally consists of dressings and applications and advice.

SKIN DISEASES.

The numbers of children who received treatment for skin diseases were as follows :—

Impetigo	432
Ringworm (scalp)	87
(body)	28
Scabies	115
Molluscum contagiosum	3
Others	93

There is a marked fall in the number of impetigo and scabies cases, both conditions which are usually associated with uncleanness. This coincides with the general improvement in the hygiene of school children. Attendance at the clinic and treatment was satisfactory in most cases.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

The main disease affecting the eyes of the children was conjunctivitis of various forms, the most common being angular conjunctivitis. Treatment with silver preparations has proved very efficacious. Phlyctenular conjunctivitis is also fairly prevalent but with local and general treatment the condition soon improves. A few cases of blepharitis and ulcer of the cornea also received treatment.

VISION.

578 cases were submitted for refraction by the school medical officers, spectacles being prescribed in 559 of the cases examined. The number supplied through the Education Authority's scheme was 527. Of these 332 were supplied free and the remainder at cost price. The incidence of refractive errors found was :

Hypermetropia	29.4	per cent.
Myopia	6.6	„
Simple hypermetropic astigmatism	7.1	„
Simple myopic astigmatism	3.3	„
Compound hypermetropic astigmatism	31.5	„
Compound myopic astigmatism	18.1	„
Mixed astigmatism	4.0	„

N.OSE AND T.HROAT DEFECTS.

During 1933, 254 elementary school children received operative treatment at Harton Hospital, as compared with 313 in the previous year. Of these 251 were cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and 3 were cases of adenoids only. It is satisfactory that again there were no serious complications following operation, the usual period of hospital treatment being two days. In addition 36 children were treated by other surgeons, and 233 children received non-operative treatment for diseases of the nose and throat.

E.A.R DISEASE.

Middle ear disease with otorrhoea was the main condition treated at the clinic. A few cases of external ear diseases were also treated.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

The report of the school dental surgeon, Mr. F. Innes, L.D.S., on the school dental service is as follows :—

“ The dental work has proceeded on practically the same lines as formerly, and the figures for 1933 differ only slightly from those of previous years. Another age-group has been taken in, and children up to the age of 12 have been inspected and were treated at the clinic when the parents consent to treatment was obtained. The children attending the Open-Air and Myope Schools were all inspected irrespective of age.

During 1933, 15,026 children were examined at the routine inspections, and 9,876 required treatment, a percentage of 65.7, which again shows a slight drop on the previous years, being 67.3 per cent. in 1932, and 70.6 per cent. in 1931.

The number of children treated as the result of routine inspection was 3,095 (31.3 per cent. of those requiring treatment) necessitating 3,868 attendances ; and 682 children were treated as special cases with 972 attendances. The total number of children treated was 3,777 with 4,840 attendances.

As in previous years the majority of the extractions have been done with local anaesthetics, but a general anaesthetic was administered in 142 cases.

On the whole the majority of the mouths are in fairly good condition, and there is a steady but slow improvement in this respect.

There are still far too many parents who do not appreciate the advantage of periodic treatment and just wait until it is forced upon them (probably by the loss of a few nights sleep) before having their children's teeth attended to.

In some cases the children are more sensible than the parents in this respect. One case occurred during the year where a dental form was duly completed by the parent consenting to dental treatment. On the other side of the form, however, was the following message : " Don't take any notice. I have had to fill this in to stop him from crying !"

The parents can be roughly divided into three classes :

- (1) Those who have dental treatment completed whenever necessary.
- (2) Those who have it done occasionally.
- (3) Those who, up to the present, have never had it done.

Needless to say the only really bad mouths are found among the latter class. This group is gradually growing smaller, and many children were treated in 1933 who were making a first appearance at the clinic after having received three or four dental forms.

In past years when inspecting the school children at the routine inspections all the cards have been fully charted as to the condition of the teeth, and this has taken up a good deal of time, 80 being about the average number of children inspected at one session. In future only the cards of children not requiring dental treatment will be fully charted. The cards of children requiring dental treatment will be simply marked " Yes," and the charting will be completed at the clinic at the same time as the treatment. This will result in the saving of much time, and a greater number of children will be inspected at each session, and more sessions will thus be available for treatment.

During 1934 another age-group will be included and children up to 13 years of age will be inspected and, it is hoped, treated as routine patients."

CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

During 1933, 10 children were referred to the orthopaedic centre at the local general hospital. A brief description of the cases is given below :—

3 WERE CASES OF CONGENITAL PES CAVUS.—In each case operation was considered necessary.

2 WERE CRIPPLED AS A RESULT OF RICKETS.—Here also surgical treatment was necessary.

2 CHILDREN HAD SPINAL DEFORMITIES.—One was found to be tuberculous, the diagnosis being confirmed by X-ray examination and the child was sent to a sanatorium. The other, a case of kyphosis due to general debility, was submitted to massage and electric treatment.

ONE GIRL WITH A LONG STANDING DISLOCATION OF THE HIP was referred for operation.

ONE GIRL HAD PARALYSIS DUE PROBABLY TO CHOREA.—She was admitted to hospital and made good progress with medical treatment.

ONE BOY HAD TALIPES.—Operation was advised.

Six cases from previous years continued their treatment.

The year's work included 4 operations and 215 attendances as out-patients, and 238 in-patient days were spent by the children in hospital.

In addition 4 crippled children received attention elsewhere: one at Ascot Hospital; 2 in cripple schools; and one at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Surgical appliances were provided or renewed in seven cases.

In all, 20 children received orthopaedic treatment during the year.

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT THERAPY.

This treatment centre at Harton Hospital again rendered useful service during the year.

The following cases in children of school age were referred by the tuberculosis officer for ultra violet light treatment:—

Lupus	5
Neck Glands	12
Abdominal tuberculosis.....	3
	—
Total	20
	==

These 20 patients made 590 attendances. In addition 27 tuberculous children continued treatment from previous years as follows :—

Lupus	7
Neck glands.....	11
Abdominal tuberculosis.....	8
Bone (leg).....	1

These made 1,122 attendances during the year. In 1933, the total number of attendances made by children for ultra violet light therapy was 2,648 including patients in attendance from 1932. As has been pointed out in previous years, owing to the difficulty of access to the treatment centre, many cases cease attending before being benefitted. It is hoped to include a ' sun ray ' clinic when the present municipal clinic premises are re-organised in the near future.

OTHER DEFECTS.

The other defects which were treated are summarised below :—

Disease or Defect.	No. of Defects treated.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Other-wise.	Total.
Lung disease (not tuberculous)	767	..	767
Anaemia and debility	937	..	937
Acute infectious diseases	5	..	5
Enlarged glands.....	88	..	88
Enteritis	46	2	48
Gastritis	10	..	10
Rheumatism	93	..	93
Diseases of the nervous system	69	..	69
Other defects and diseases	578	14	592
Total	2,593	16	2,609

Following Up.

The Health Visitors paid 581 visits to the homes of school children for the purpose of ascertaining whether the necessary treatment was being obtained; 135 visits in connection with uncleanliness; 390 after surgical treatment; 127 after dental operations; 42 in connection with orthopaedic cases; 332 regarding mentally defective children, and 43 visits for other miscellaneous purposes in connection with the school medical service. In addition

535 similar visits were paid to the schools ; 126 visits to schools for routine medical inspection purposes, and 310 visits to schools regarding cleanliness surveys. This is in addition to the visits paid to the homes in connection with tuberculosis, infant welfare and infectious diseases.

The Health Visitors attended a total of 441 sessions at general school clinics ; 120 sessions at dental clinics and 126 sessions at eye refraction clinics, apart from the attendances at child welfare and tuberculosis clinics.

Treatment of Uncleanliness.

The work of the school nurses in cleanliness surveys is summarised in Table 4, Group VI., page 36, and is also referred to on page 7. Notices under section 87 of the Education Act, 1921, were served on the parents of four children in three households. In one of the cases the mother was subsequently committed to prison on other charges of neglect on proceedings instituted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It was not found necessary to compulsorily cleanse any children at the Authority's cleansing station during the year. The school nurses paid 135 special visits to the homes of unclean children.

Provision of Meals.

There was a further substantial increase in the number of free meals provided. 2,906 children were provided with free dinners at six centres, the cost being £6,226 17s. 11d. The total number of free meals given in 1933 was 316,489. In 1932, the number was 141,927 at a cost of £2,956 16s. 3d.

School Baths.

At one of the elementary schools bathing arrangements are provided, and at the High School the scholars have the use of shower baths after games.

During the year school children made 71,727 attendances at the Derby Street Public Baths (boys 57,386 and girls 14,341) under the Education Authority's instructors.

The children showed exceptional keenness in their efforts and it is very rarely that a beginner does not learn to swim in the first year of this course. The number of certificates gained during the year was as follows :—

1. Under the Education Authority :

Honours	44	}	Total 1,555
1st Class	316		
2nd Class	479		
3rd Class	716		

2. By the Royal Life Saving Society :

Elementary	310	}	Total 763
Intermediate	279		
Medallions	174		

The instructors are to be congratulated on these excellent results. It should also be mentioned that South Shields' best school team (Mortimer Road Boys') were champions of Northumberland and Durham. They were also semi-finalists at the All-England competitions held at Nottingham.

Co-operation of Parents.

Parents were present in 74 per cent. of the medical inspections at routine medical examinations. There were 21 objections to medical examination all of which were from secondary schools.

The following is a statement of the amounts contributed at the various clinics in accordance with the scale of charges approved by the Board of Education :—

	£	s.	d.
Eye Clinic	14	14	4
Surgical Clinic	14	17	6
Dental Clinic	102	7	4
General Clinic	12	5	5
	<hr/>		
	£144	4	7
	<hr/>		

In 1932 the total amount was £148 13s. 4d.

Co-operation of Teachers and Attendance Officers.

The head teachers and attendance officers again rendered valuable assistance to the school medical service. It is a pleasure to place on record their willing co-operation.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

SHOELESS CHILDREN'S FUND.—The honorary secretary, Chief Constable Wilkie, informs me that 4,367 children were supplied with boots and stockings during 1933.

POOR CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION.—Through this organization 40 children were given the benefit of a holiday in the country.

N.S.P.C.C.—The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, through their Inspector, Mr. S. Williamson, dealt with four cases which it was found necessary to bring to the notice of the Society.

BLIND, DEAF AND DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

These exceptional children are referred to in table 3—the Board of Education's form 8c. M. Help in ascertainment was again rendered by the tuberculosis officer, head teachers, attendance officers and health visitors. In a few instances the cases were brought to the notice of the school medical officer by the parent themselves.

With the exception of those cases who did not attend when sent for, all the mentally retarded cases were examined during the year : 75 such special examinations were made. The following is a classification of the conclusions formed.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Dull or backward.....	15*	7	22
Inconclusive (to be re-examined)	1	2	3
Feeble-minded—			
For special day school	9	3	12
For special residential school	11	14	25
Ineducable	5	6†	11
Imbecile .....	..	2	2
Total	41	34	75

* Includes one cretin.

† Includes one mentally defective and epileptic ; and one child re-examined from the previous year, previously reported "examination inconclusive."

In addition the following were also examined and informally reported to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee :—

NOT YET AGE 7.

Ineducable feeble-minded 1 boy.

Imbecile 2 girls.

One girl was notified to the Local Control Authority on discharge from a special school, having attained the age of 16. Subsequent re-examination, however, showed her to be not certifiable.

There were notified to the Local Control Authority during the year—

Imbecile 1 boy, 3 girls.
Ineducable feeble-minded 6 boys, 7 girls.

Further provision was made for mentally defective children at special residential schools, 13 being admitted during the year, including one blind feeble-minded case. At present there are 27 at such institutions, 73 at elementary schools, and 13 children at no school or institution. Of the latter, two have found employment.

The following is a complete list of defectives for whom the Education Authority are responsible. Further details are given in Table 3, page 29.

Totally blind	9
Partially blind	51
Totally deaf	20
Partially deaf	6
Feeble-minded	113
Epileptic (severe)	8
Physically defective—	
Pulmonary tuberculosis.....	150*
Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis	314*
Delicate	290
Crippled	78
Heart cases	25

(*All are on the Tuberculosis Register, *i.e.*, not yet certified "recovered.")

It will be seen that out of 113 mentally defective children only 27 have been provided for suitably. The need for a special day school for these children must be again emphasised. As an alternative two or more classes might be arranged in one of the elementary schools in which the number of children has been reduced on account of Housing Clearance Orders. At present the supervision of those children not at special schools is carried out by periodic visits from the health visitors.

MYOPE SCHOOL.

At the end of 1933, there were present at this school 48 pupils. They are grouped below according to their visual defects :—

Highly myopic.....	19
Cataracts	8
Nystagmus	6
Opacities from corneal ulceration.....	4
Opacities from interstitial keratitis	2
Coloboma of iris and choroid.....	1
Disease of the optic nerve	2
Atrophy of the choroid	2
Congenital ptosis with paralytic squint	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2

These scholars were examined by Mr. Gowans, the Consulting Oculist, whose report, dated 25th November, 1933, is as follows :—

“The Myope School has been established long enough in its new quarters at Cleadon for one to form an opinion as to the value of the change. There is no doubt that there is a very marked improvement in the physique and general well-being of the children all brought about by the healthy environment, good food and personal hygiene. Mrs. Sinclair, the head mistress, gives every attention to each individual case, and is to be congratulated on the success attending her efforts. Dr. Levy has, as usual, diagnosed the cases correctly, and I have had to make very few alterations in the glasses used by the children. The inspection has been useful in confirming the type of cases to benefit in such a school and to decide on such cases as would improve by operative or other treatment. I found that some three or four cases required operative treatment, and have taken the necessary steps to have this carried out by me at the Ingham Infirmary. To sum up I am of opinion that the Myope School is doing excellent and necessary work for children suffering from more than the ordinary degrees of defective eyesight.”

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

This school with 176 children on the roll does not adequately meet the needs of the borough as there is always a long waiting list. A large proportion, however, are admitted, the more urgent cases within a month or so of their certification as physically defective. During 1933, 77 children were admitted who may be classified as follows according to their disability :—

Bronchitis	23
Anaemia	7
Debility or malnutrition	32
Chronic eye affections	4
Healed or quiescent tuberculosis	7
Heart disease	1
Rickets	2
Cervical adenitis.....	1

It should be mentioned that the child with the cardiac affection was found to be unsuitable and replaced after being in attendance for one month.

A survey of the children discharged during the year showed that out of a total of 74, 59 were certified as suitable to leave.

Of the 15 who left the school and who could not be regarded as fit, two were transferred to sanatorium or hospital, one was found to be partially blind and admitted to the Myope School, one was certified mentally defective and sent to Prudhoe Hall, three were discharged for health reasons, five returned to the ordinary schools because of unsatisfactory attendance, two died, and one having attained the age of 16 was obliged to leave.

Regarding the 59 found fit to leave : four gained over 30 lbs. in weight, eight gained from 21 to 30 lbs., 19 from 11 to 20 lbs., and 28 from 4 to 10 lbs. 11 of these had been in attendance for 3 years or more, 17 from 2 to 3 years, 26 from 1 to 2 years, 3 from 6 to 12 months, and 2 for 4 months.

This represents an average gain per child of 15.3 lbs. for an average stay of 25.3 months.

The following table includes similar findings for previous years :—

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
No. of children certified fit for discharge	24	28	24	66	59
Average stay per child in months	32.0	30.2	40.0	32.1	25.3
Average gain per child (in pounds)	23.0	19.0	23.6	20.2	15.3
Estimated annual average gain	9.0	7.50	7.00	7.55	7.23

It is interesting to know that since the inception of the school in 1925, 376 children have left and only 30 have been re-admitted owing to a breakdown in health.

The average attendance for 1933 was 151, the percentage being 85, which is not quite so satisfactory as in previous years. Regarding this, Miss C. Smith, the head teacher makes the following observations :

“The spring was very severe, and the children on the whole are of a much poorer class than in former years. In many cases they may have very little to help to keep them well at home. Absence is generally for genuine sickness. Cases of scabies probably reduced the attendance by at least 2 per cent. on a year's attendance.”

No case of acute infectious disease occurred during the year.

SCHOOL CAMPS.

During the summer vacation successful camps were again held on the Open-Air School premises. This year 30 boys camped out each week during the month's holiday.

The schools from which the boys were selected were Dean Road, Ocean Road, Cone Street, Holy Trinity and Stanhope Road.

The weather was ideal, and an excellent programme of recreation included visits to the coast for sea bathing. As was the case last year a sports day was held when the parents were invited to be present.

We are again indebted to the T.O.C.H. organisation who are responsible for this project.

The successful manner in which they carried out all their arrangements is undoubtedly deserving of high praise.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Number of Secondary Schools	2
viz., Westoe Secondary School (Mixed) and the High School (for boys only). Both are provided by the Education Authority.	
Number of pupils on the registers at the end of 1933....	882
Average attendance	82.4
Percentage average attendance	95.8

Routine medical inspection of pupils showed that the main defects requiring attention were defective vision and dental caries. The high standard of health noted in former years was well maintained.

No changes were made in the arrangements for medical inspection, following up of defects or treatment.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

In 1933 a new handbook of Health Education was published by the Board, and copies were supplied to each school. There is no doubt that the teaching of hygiene and health subjects was thereby facilitated and encouraged.

In addition the schools were supplied from the Health Department with copies of a magazine "Better Health." This is published monthly by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals with topical subjects appertaining to preventive medicine. 700 copies were sent to the schools each month.

For a fortnight in September the borough was visited by a lady representative of the Dental Board. 30 departments, mainly senior schools, received demonstrations. The danger of dental caries and the advisability of early treatment were emphasised. Many interesting models were also exhibited. These classes, which usually lasted for an hour had approximately 125 children.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Examination of Candidates for H.M. Forces.

11 boys, candidates for artificers for the Royal Air Force were examined. One was regarded as unsuitable for nomination.

Examination of Pupil Teachers and Scholarship Candidates.

19 pupil teachers and bursar candidates were medically examined. Seven were found to be unvaccinated.

55 scholarship candidates were also inspected, the defects observed being—

Cardiac disorder	2
Carious teeth	14
Defective vision	9
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	1
Blepharitis	1

The defects were brought to the notice of the parents who were also advised as to the treatment.

Examination for the Stage.

Seven children who required certificates for stage performances were examined. Six were granted the necessary certificates according to the requirements of the Board of Education; one girl was regarded as unsuitable on account of heart disease.

Deaths in School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1933 in children of school age :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Boys.		Girls.		Total.
	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	
Measles	3	..	2	..	5
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	1	1
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	1
Influenza .....	..	..	3	1	4
Encephalitis lethargica .....	..	..	..	1	1
Meningococcal meningitis	1	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	2	4	4	12
Tuberculous meningitis	2	1	4	1	8
Other tuberculous diseases	2	2	..	3	7
Rheumatic fever	1	1	..	1	3
Splenic anaemia .....	..	1	..	..	1
Diabetes .....	..	..	..	1	1
Disease of thymus	1	..	..	..	1
Leukaemia .....	..	1	..	..	1
Meningitis	1	..	1	..	2
Diseases of the ear and mastoid	1	..	..	1	2
Valvular disease of the heart	1	1	..	..	2
Bronchitis	1	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	6	..	1	..	7
Enteritis	2	..	..	1	3
Appendicitis	1	1	..	..	2
Nephritis	1	2	..	..	3
Accidental fall .....	..	..	1	..	1
Heart failure .....	..	..	..	1	1
Total	27	12	16	16	71

ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER SCHOOLS.

**TABLE 1—RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1933.**

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Elementary.</i>	<i>Higher.</i>
Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—		
Entrants	1,802	} 750
Second Age Group (Intermediates)	1,579	
Third Age Group (Leavers)	2,352	
Total	<u>5,733</u>	<u>750</u>

Number of other Routine Inspections :—

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections.....	6,071	4
Number of Re-Inspections.....	10,025	10
Total	<u>16,096</u>	<u>14</u>

ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER SCHOOLS.

TABLE 2.—(A.) RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1933.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.				Special Inspections.			
		No. of Defects.				No. of Defects.			
		Re-quiring treat-ment.		Requiring to be kept under ob-servation but not requiring treatment.		Re-quiring treat-ment.		Requiring to be kept under ob-servation but not requiring treatment.	
		El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.
Skin.	Malnutrition .....	..	..	285	12	2	..	..	..
	Ringworm :—								
	Scalp .....	..	..	..	..	84	..	..	..
	Body .....	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	..
	Scabies	2	..	..	..	115	..	..	..
	Impetigo	11	1	14	..	426	..	..	..
Eye.	Other diseases (non-tuberculous)	2	..	54	3	938	..	..	..
	Blepharitis	3	..	58	1	144	..	..	..
	Conjunctivitis	1	..	5	..	158	..	..	..
	Keratitis .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Corneal opacities .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Defective vision (excluding squint)	447	27	721	105	332	..	..	..
Ear.	Squint	21	1	83	..	36	..	..	..
	Other conditions	1	1	12	..	88	..	..	..
	Defective hearing .....	..	..	298	6	29	..	..	..
Nose and Throat.	Otitis media	3	..	90	2	159	..	..	..
	Other ear diseases	1	..	18	1	55	1	..	..
Nose and Throat.	Chronic tonsillitis only	124	7	1054	86	8	..	..	..
	Adenoids only	7	..	39	3	7	..	..	..
	Chronic tonsillitis and adenoids	296	2	37	..	138	..	..	..
	Other conditions	5	..	30	2	229	..	..	..
Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous) .....		..	..	376	2	92	..	..	..
Defective speech .....		..	..	85	2	1	..	..	..

TABLE 2 (A.)—CONTINUED.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Re- quiring treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation but not requiring treatment.	Re- quiring treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation but not requiring treatment.
		El. Hr.	El. Hr.	El. Hr.	El. Hr.
Heart and Circu- lation	Heart Disease :—				
	Organic .....	.. ..	17 2	6 ..	.. ..
	Functional .....	.. ..	51 2	2 ..	.. ..
	Anaemia	7 1	232 33	915 2	.. ..
Lungs.	Bronchitis	9 ..	229 2	683 ..	.. ..
	Other non-tuberculous diseases .....	.. ..	.. ..	79 ..	.. ..
Tuber- culosis.	Pulmonary :—				
	Definite .....	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Suspected .....	.. ..	4 ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Non-pulmonary :—				
	Glands .....	.. ..	2 ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Bones and joints .....	.. ..	7 ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Skin .....	.. ..	2 ..	.. ..	.. ..
Nervous System.	Other forms .....	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Epilepsy	2 ..	2 ..	11 ..	.. ..
	Chorea .....	.. ..	1 1	43 1	.. ..
	Other conditions .....	.. ..	15 1	14 ..	.. ..
Deform- ities	Rickets	1 ..	64 ..	6 ..	.. ..
	Spinal curvature	1 ..	7 ..	.. ..	.. ..
	Other forms	1 ..	17 4	7 ..	.. ..
Other defects and diseases (ex- cluding uncleanness and dental diseases)		1 ..	65 16	555 ..	.. ..

TABLE 2.—(B.) NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases).

GROUP.	Number of Children.				Percentage of children found to require treatment.	
	Inspected.		Found to require treatment.			
	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.
Prescribed Groups :						
Entrants	1,802	..	139	..	7.7	..
2nd Age Group (Inter-mediates)	1,579	..	289	..	18.3	..
3rd Age Group (Leavers)	2,352	..	428	..	18.2	..
Total (Prescribed Groups) ..	5,733	750	856	40	14.9	5.3
Other routine inspections ....	..	..	..	..	..	..

El.—Elementary.

Hr.—Higher.

TABLE 3.—RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1933.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

Mentally Defective and Epileptic—

At Special Residential School for Mentally Defective Children	1
At no School or Institution	1

Mentally Defective and Blind—

At Special Residential School for Blind, Mentally Defective Children	1
--	---

3

TABLE 3.—CONTINUED.

BLIND CHILDREN—

At Certified Schools for the Blind.....	5
At Public Elementary Schools .....	..
At Other Institutions .....	..
At no School or Institution	4
Total	<u>9</u>

PARTIALLY BLIND CHILDREN—

At Certified Schools for the Blind .....	..
„ „ „ Partially Blind	48
„ Public Elementary Schools.....	2
„ Other Institutions.....	..
„ no School or Institution	1
Total	<u>51</u>

DEAF CHILDREN—

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	12
„ Public Elementary Schools.....	5
„ Other Institutions	1
„ no School or Institution	2
Total	<u>20</u>

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN—

At Certified Schools for the Deaf .....	..
„ „ „ Partially Deaf .....	..
„ Public Elementary Schools.....	6
„ Other Institutions.....	..
„ no School or Institution .....	..
Total	<u>6</u>

TABLE 3.—CONTINUED.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN—

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children..	25
,, Public Elementary Schools.....	73
,, Other Institutions.....	..
,, no School or Institution	12
Total	110

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN (Severe Epilepsy)—

At Certified Special Schools .....	..
,, Public Elementary Schools.....	2
,, Other Institutions.....	..
,, no School or Institution	6
Total	8

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN :

	At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institu- tion.	At no School or Insti- tution.	Total.
*A. Tuberculous Children:					
I. — Children suffering from Pulm. Tuberc. ..	8	88	19	35	150
II. — Children suffering from Non-Pulm. Tuberc.	19	232	16	47	314
B.—Delicate Children ..	148	142	..	..	290
C.—Crippled Children ..	3	63	2	10	78
D.—Children with Heart Disease	1	24	..	..	25

*Includes all children aged 5-16 on the Tuberculosis Register who are not yet certified by the Tuberculosis Officer as "Recovered" within the meaning of the Ministry of Health's definition.

**TABLE 4.—RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1933.**

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

(Excluding Uncleanliness).

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
SKIN :—			
Ringworm : Scalp	87*	..	87
Body	28	..	28
Scabies	115	..	115
Impetigo	432	..	432
Other skin diseases	934	..	934
MINOR EYE DEFECTS :—			
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	378	..	378
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	250	1	251
MISCELLANEOUS, (<i>e.g.</i> , minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	310	5	315
TOTAL	2,534	6	2,540

* None treated by X-Ray.

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

One case of minor ear defect was treated at the School Clinic.

TABLE 4.—CONTINUED.

GROUP II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND
SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as
Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects dealt with.							
	Under the Authority's Scheme.		By private practitioner or at hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme.		Other-wise.		Total.	
	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.	El.	Hr.
Errors of refraction (including squint) ..	578	13	..	..	..	..	578	13
Other defect or disease of the eyes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	578	13	..	..	..	..	578	13

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

	<i>Elementary.</i>	<i>Higher.</i>
(a) Under the Authority's scheme	559	13
(b) Otherwise .....	..	..

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :—

(a) Under the Authority's scheme	527	12
(b) Otherwise .....	..	.

TABLE IV.—CONTINUED.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Children—

	<i>Elementary.</i>				<i>Higher.</i>			
	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)
(1) Received operative treatment :—								
(a) Under the Authority's scheme, in Clinic or Hospital . . . .	..	3	251	..	..	..	..	..
(b) By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme	5	..	31	..	..	..	1	..
Total	5	3	282	..	..	..	1	..
(2) Received other forms of treatment	233				..			
Total number treated	523				1			

NOTE.—(i.) Tonsils only. (ii.) Adenoids only. (iii.) Tonsils and Adenoids. (iv.) Other defects of the Nose and Throat.

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Number of Children treated—

(1) Under the Authority's Scheme :	
(a) Residential treatment with education	3
(b) " " without education	5
(c) Non-residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	12
(2) Otherwise :	
(a) Residential treatment with education . . . . .	..
(b) " " without education	1
(c) Non-residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	5
Total number treated—20*.	

*Some of the children are recorded in more than one of the above categories.

TABLE 4.—CONTINUED.

GROUP V.—TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Routine.</i>	<i>Specials.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 5 .....	..	66	66
5	1,580	14	1,594
6	1,647	13	1,660
7	1,683	11	1,694
8	2,017	19	2,036
9	2,337	18	2,355
10	2,324	24	2,348
11	2,007	62	2,069
12	1,374	151	1,525
13	38	259	297
14	19	92	111
15 .....	..	16	16
16 and over .....	..	4	4
Total	<u>15,026</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>15,775</u>

(b) Found by Dentist to require treatment 9,876 748 10,624

(c) Actually treated (by School Dentist)..... 3,095 682 3,777

(2) Half-days devoted to—

Inspection 185 ; Treatment 544 ; Total—729.

TABLE 4.—GROUP V.—CONTINUED.

	<i>Routine.</i>	<i>Specials.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment	3,868	972	4,840
(4) Fillings :—Permanent teeth ..	763	107	877
Temporary teeth ..	3	4	
(5) Extractions :—Permanent Teeth	902	957	10,922
Temporary teeth	8,089	974	
(6) Administration of general anaes- thetics for extractions..	88	54	142
(7) Other operations :—			
Permanent teeth .....	..	..	298
Temporary teeth.....	269	29	

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

19 pupils made 22 attendances at the Dental Clinic : 19 pupils were treated. The treatment comprised 51 extractions (24 temporary teeth ; 27 permanent teeth), and 2 permanent fillings.

GROUP VI.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

	<i>First Survey.</i>	<i>Second Survey.</i>
(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ..	5	5
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses :—		
(a) Children examined	18,311	10,983
(b) Examinations made	19,786	12,526
(iii.) No. of individual children found unclean ..	966	887
(iv.) No. of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	Nil.	Nil.
(v.) No. of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	Nil.	Nil.

